

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS XF JO LE

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE POSITIONS ON ALGIERS SUMMIT
AND PEACE TALKS

1. JORDANIAN ENVOYS TALHOUNI AND RIFAI MET PRESIDENT FRANGIE NOV 15 TO DISCUSS UPCOMING ALGIERS SUMMIT AND PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION. WE ARE TOLD BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY (DIB) THAT TALHOUNI STATED CATEGORICALLY JORDAN WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT, EVEN THOUGH PLO ALSO EXPECTED BE PRESENT. THIS DIFFERENT FROM KHARTOUM SUMMIT WHERE JORDANIAN DEL REPRESENTED PALESTINIANS, BUT TALHOUNI SAID IT ACCEPTABLE TO GOJ.

2. CONCERNING FUTURE OF WEST BANK, TALHOUNI TOLD FRANGIE THAT GOJ PLEDGED TO LEIBERATE OCCUPIED TERRITORY BUT THAT DECISION ON FUTURE WOULD BE UP TO PALESTINIANS. GOJ BELIEVED THAT ALL PALESTINIANS WHO WISHED TO RETURN AFTER TERRITORY LIBERATED SHOULD DO SO AND IT WOULD BE UP TO THEM TO DECIDE WHETHER TERRITORY SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OR SOMEHOW LINKED TO JORDAN.

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3. ONLY OTHER POINT MADE BY TALHOUNI ON WHICH DIB

REPORTED WAS HIS STATEMENT THAT EAST JERUSALEM SHOULD REGAIN ITS ARAB STATUS. LEBANESE REMINDED TALHOUNI THAT CHRISTIANS ALSO HAVE INTERESTS IN JERUSALEM AND ARAB GOVTS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION. DIB TOLD EMBOFF THAT LEBANESE ENVOY TO VATICAN RAISED FUTURE OF JERUSALEM WITH OFFICIALS THERE ON NOV 12, JUST PRIOR TO SISCO'S VISIT. LEBANESE ENCOURAGED AT WHAT THEY WERE TOLD, NAMELY THAT VATICAN WISHES SEE INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR HOLY PLACES BUT IS NOT PRESSING FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM, AND THAT VATICAN FEELS STRONGLY THAT THERE MUST BE A HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

4. IN RELATED CONVERSATION NOV. 14 LEBANESE FONMIN, TOLD EMBOFF THAT FATAH LEADERS ARE SO KEEN ON PARTICIPATING IN PEACE TALKS THEY HAVE INDICATED TO GOL AND OTHERS THEIR DESIRE TO BE PRESENT AT FIRST STAGE, RATHER THAN LATER STAGE AS EGYPTIANS WERE THINKING. THIS HAS CAUSED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO GOL.

5. COMMENT: LEBANESE POSITION ON PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS AT PEACE TALKS IS STILL SOMEWHAT FLUID AS THEY CONTINUE TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER ARAB GOVTS. WHILE THEY THINK ISSUE MOST LIKELY BE RESOLVED BY AGREEMENT THAT PLO SHOULD BE PRESENT IN GENEVA, (BEIRUT 13109) THEY WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW LEAD OF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA WHILE TAKING INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION ATTITUDES OF FEDAYEEN (WHO ARE THREAT TO LEBANON) AND JORDAN (WHOM GOL CONSIDERS BE NATURAL ALLY). JORDANIAN POSITION AS EXPLAINED BY TALHOUNI OFFERS SORT OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH LEBANESE BELIEVE NECESSARY IN ORDER REACH AGREEMENT AMONG MODERATE STATES ON HANDLING AT ALGIERS PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA TALKS. BUFFUM

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